



Session 1 - Close Read

Teacher Notes

The purpose of a close read activity is to gain an understanding of the text by reading it multiple times and making sure we really study what the author is trying to tell us.

(All close read texts are age appropriate.)

Close Read Instructions:

- 1) Look at the vocabulary highlighted. Do you know what the words mean? The vocabulary box will help you.
- 2) Read the text to yourself and think:
What did I just read?
What did it say?
 - 1) Now read the text again with a grown-up.
 - 2) Read the questions and now reread the text again to find the clues for your answer.
 - 3) Answer the questions in writing.

James's large frightened eyes travelled slowly round the room. The creatures, some sitting on chairs, others **reclining** on a sofa, were all watching him **intently**. Creatures? Or were they insects? An insect is usually something rather small, is it not? A grasshopper, for example, is an insect. So what would you call it if you saw a grasshopper as large as a dog? As large as a large dog. You could hardly call that an insect, could you? There was an Old-Green-Grasshopper as large as a large dog sitting **directly across** the room from James now. And next to the Old-Green-Grasshopper, there was an enormous Spider.

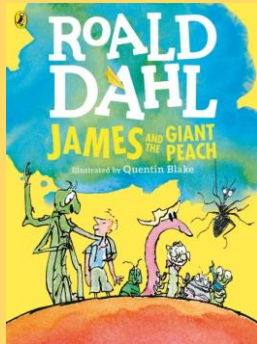
Vocab Box

reclining - leaning back (almost lying down)

intently- in a concentrating sort of way

directly across - straight across

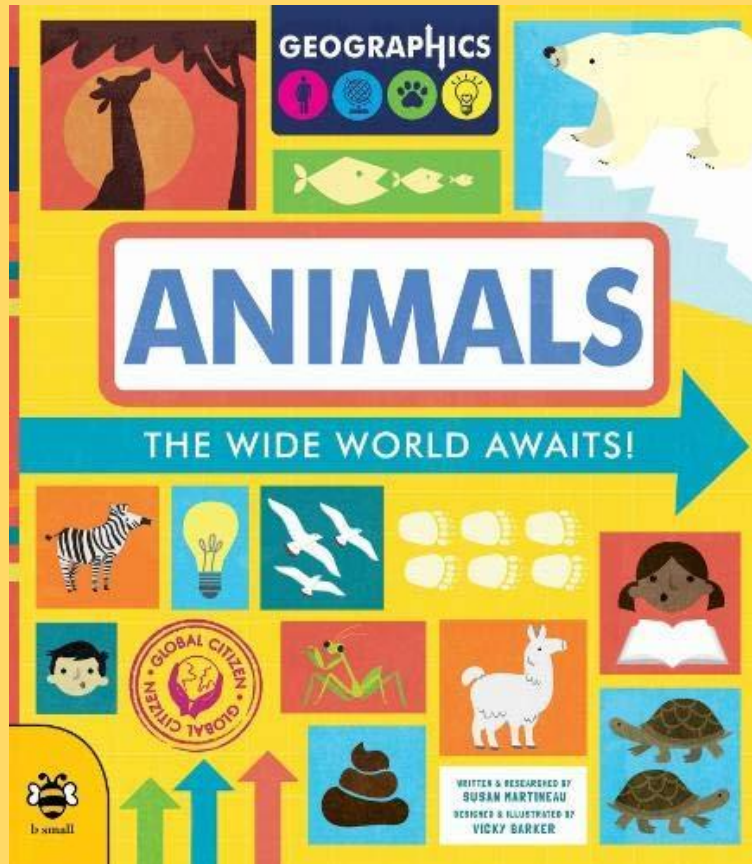
Today's extract comes from this book.



Questions

- (1) What do you think the author means when he says that James's eyes **travelled** around the room?
- (1) Why do you think James was not sure whether the creatures were actually insects?

Sessions 2,3,4 and 5



This week, we are looking at a non-fiction text all about animals.

Task 2 - reading comprehension

A BIOME TO CALL HOME

Planet Earth is home to millions of animals. The world has many types of land and climate, from freezing cold mountains to wet and hot forests. These different areas are called biomes. Let's have a look at some of them and the animals who live there.

Questions

1. Find and copy one word that means an area of land or climate.
2. What 2 places are cold deserts?
3. What happens to your breath in the Polar Zones?
4. Which biome would you find a flamingo?
 - a. Desert
 - b. Polar Zone
 - c. Wetland
5. Name 3 animals that live in Antarctica.
6. What sort of land are wetlands?
7. What are the 3 types of water that are found in wetlands?
8. Wetlands are ESSENTIAL snack bars... What do you think this means?



Task 3 - conjunctions

Remember **conjunctions** are words that join two phrases to make a longer sentence. They are words like **because** and

but



Read the text about these two Arctic animals. Then copy each of these sentences and choose the best conjunction to fill in the gap (**because**, **and**, **but**).

1. Polar bears and 2.5m long ____ they are the world's largest bear.
2. They have thick blubber under their fur _____ it is very cold in their habitat.
3. It is slippery on snow and ice _____ polar bears have fur under their paws to help them grip.
4. The Arctic fox has white fur in the winter _____ dark fur in the winter.
5. An Arctic fox does not need a duvet _____ it has a thick furry tail instead.

Session 4 and 5

Here are fact files about two biomes (Mountains and Deserts).

For the next two sessions, you are going to write a fact file about the creatures you could find in habitats near you (your garden or a park or countryside nearby).

You need to include a description of the habitat and then 3 sections - each for a different animal that lives there). The next slide has some facts you could use.

MOUNTAINS

Himalayas, Asia.

Here are the world's highest mountains, including Mount Everest.

Himalayan pika

Looks like a **FURRY EGG** and even has **FURRY FEET** to keep warm.



LIVES in crevices in rocks.

Golden eagle

HUGE WINGSPAN

=
up to **2.3 m** (7.5 feet)
to make the most of warm air rising up mountains to fly really **HIGH**.

GREAT EYESIGHT to see prey miles away **AND** loves to eat...

DESERT

Sonoran Desert, North America.

Gila woodpecker

Makes **NESTS** inside cactus plants.



Ringtail cat

NOCTURNAL

=
it only comes out at night to hunt when it is cooler.



Sidewinder rattlesnake

MOVES SIDEWAYS

so only a small amount of its body touches the hot sand at one time.



HORNS above eyes to keep sand out of them

Animals found in a garden habitat

Fox

- a member of the dog family
- can live up to 15 years
- female called vixen, male called a dog
- can live in towns or countryside



Blackbird



- Black feathers mean I'm a male blackbird - brown feathers mean I'm a female
- I eat worms from your lawn
- My song is one of the best you will ever hear
- I love to scratch around in autumn leaves

Bee



- have 5 eyes, 6 legs and 4 wings
- collect nectar from flowers to make honey
- live in hives with about 50 thousand others)
- male bees do not have a stinger

- breath through their skin
- cannot see or hear
- eats its own weight of soil every day
- if you cut on in half, the half with the head will live!

Worm



Blue tit



- I eat caterpillars, nuts and seeds
- Look for me in trees, but not on the ground
- I nest in holes in trees, including nest boxes